

REHEARSAL.

The Root and Spring of the Presbyterian Combination in Scotland.

From Saturday January the 27th, to Saturday February the 3d, 1703.

Country-m. **T**Hou call'dst me a *Witch* last time, for *Guessing* so right at the *Scots* Affairs; That we had nothing to Fear from that *Nation*, but from the Wicked *Faction*, that has *Reign'd* too Long There, and Here likewise; And brought great *Dishonour* upon both *Nations*, all the World over, for that *Rebellion*, *Be-traying*, *Selling*, and *Murdering* the best King ever sat on their *Throne*, which was not the Act of either of the *Nations*, but of that Bloody *FAC-TION* Confederated as *Brethren* in Both the *Nations*. Who being *Indulg'd*, *Gratify'd*, and put into *Pla-cus* of *Trust*, to *PLEASE* them, *Forsooth*! Soon *Wrested* the *Whole POWER* into their own Hands, to the *Utter Destruction* of the *Church*, the *King*, and the *Laws*; with the most *Miserable Massac-re* of the Best Part of the *Nation*; and *Consum-mate Tyranny*, and *Oppression* of all the Rest, in such *Arbitrary* manner, as not to be *Equal'd* in the *History* of any other *People*.

And it being notorious, That for some Time past, they have set up again the same their former *Principles*, bare-fac'd; And have *Graff'd* at the *Power* by the same *Artifices*, and upon the same *Pretences*, which they made use of in *Forty One*; Thou thought'st I had some more than ordinary *Skill*, in telling what their *Designs* were, and what in *Probability*, wou'd be their next *Step*, which has fallen out *Accordingly*. And I can tell thee, what they will do *Next*, and *Next* to that, if *Way* be given to them, and what *Last* of all, and what all this must come to. Nay, I have told thee all this already, over and over again, and there go's no more *Conjuration* to all this, than to *Spell* and *Put together*. Nor any other way to hinder the *Nation* from seeing all this, but to *Put out* their *Eyes*. Which is the *Business* of thy *Observers*, and the Rest of the *SCANDALOUS-CLUR-Papers* and *Pamphlets*; to *Cover* the *Design*, to *Start New Hares*, to *Amuse* the *People* with *High Church*, and *Plots* under *Ground*; And to *Batter* the *Friends* of the *Church* and the *Monarchy*, as *Papists*, *Jacobites*, and what not. And with this *Noise* to *Deafen* the *Mob*, that they *Hear* not the *Workers* in your *Mines*, till they are *Ready* to be *Sprung*.

Obf. All had been well, if the *House of Commons* (But they will never take my Advice!) had gone on with my *Proposal* which I made in my *Observer* of the 3d last *Month*, N. 75. That the *KEEL-BULLIES*, and others employ'd in the *COLLIERY* at *New-Castle*, whose *Numbers*, (I say) are *Incredible*, shou'd be *ARM'D* from *Her Majesty's Arsenal* in the *TOWER* of *LONDON*, &c.

Country-m I have heard that their *Numbers* are very *Great*, about *Forty Thousand*. And that *Two Thirds* of these are *Scots*. And, which is far worse, *Rank Whiggs* out of the *West* of *Scotland*; bitter *Presbyterians*. Here is *Forty-One* again in lively *Col-lurs*! The *Tower* of *London* must be *Dis-arm'd*; and

Her Majesty left *Naked* to *YOUR Wonted CLEMEN-CT*! And the *Arms* put into the Hands of *YOUR Dear Brethren* at *New-Castle*, to *Join YOUR Dear Brethren* of *Scotland*, when they think fit to *Bring* their *Covenant* again into *England*, as they *Did* before, and *Declare*, That they must *Do* it yet once Again, for *All* our *GOODS*!

But the *Wisdom* of the *Honourable House* of *Com-mons* has, more than Once, put a *Spoke* in the *Wheel* of several of *YOUR* pretty *Plots*. And, for this time, has *Defeated YOUR Grand Expectation*, of get-ting *YOUR Northern Friends ARM'D*.

For this Reason, They have been *Lampoon'd* in *Prose* and in *Vers*, tho' without *Sense* or *Rhyme*, by all the stinking *Artillery* of your *Scandalous Club*, in such *Impudent* and *Outragious* manner, even while they are *Sitting*, as is not to be *equal'd* in any former *Times*, and shews whither *YOUR Licentiousness* will grow, if it be not *Corrected* before it be too *Late*!

It has Exceeded even that *Part* of *YOUR Faction* in *Scotland*, which has the *Pretence* of a *Legal Estab-lishment*. But that *Part* of the *Faction* in *England* being *Dissenters* from the *Legal Establishment* Here, are therefore *Exceedingly* more *Bold* and *Impudent* than their *Brethren* in *Scotland*, in their *Railing* and bitter *Invectives*, which come out daily Here against our *Church*, *Liturg*y, *Rites* and *Ceremonies*, making them *Papish*, *Anti-Christian*, and even *Heathenish*, rendring the *Church* of *England* as *Black* as *Hell*, leaving her neither *Honesty*, *Loyalty*, nor *Christia-nity*, as fully is shew'd in my former *Rehearsals*, N. 15, 16, 17, 18.

And besides all this, *Attacking* the *Civil Govern-ment*, the *Queen*, her *Lord High-Admiral* by Name, and all her *Admirals* and *Generals*, who Please not *THEM*; And the like of the *Bishops*, *Judges*, and whole *Administration*, the *Lords* and *Commons*, and All that stand in their way, sparing none, of what *Rank* or *Quality* soever! whom they *Lampoon* every Day in *Print*, without either *Fear* or *Wit*.

These are the *Pertinent Papers* that come from *A-broad*, which the *Combination* of the *Faction* in *Scot-land*, set down in my last, *Parag. 3*. Orders to be *Dispers'd* away among the *Faction* there, to *Awaken* and *Rouse up* their *Friends*. They crave *Aid* of their *Dear Brethren* in *England*; And they have it to the *Full*! They go *Hand* in *Hand*. And neither *Part* is ignorant of what the *Other* are a *Doing*.

And as *England* has nothing to fear from *Scotland*, but from the *Faction* there, in *Combination* with the same *Faction* here: And as that *Part* of the *Faction* in *England* is more *Daring* and *Insulting* upon the *Government*, than the *Part* in *Scotland*; so is there more *Prospect* of *Danger* to *England* from the *Faction* in her own *Bowels*, than from that in *Scotland*.

There is another Thing, well worth taking Notice of, and that is, That the *Faction* in *Scot-land* have always been Made the *Forlorn-hope*, to *Begin THERE*, what was *Design'd* to be brought in

in *HERE*, by the *Main-Body*. If it Fail *THERE*, upon the first Attempt, then the *Faction HERE* have their Part, to *Screen* them, and *Excuse* them, till they shall be Ready to *Begin* again. Thus the first Tumults in Scotland, were *Palliated* to K. Ch. I. as of no *Danger* or *Consequence* at all, and were let *Go on* and *Prosper*, till the KING was surpriz'd by the *March* of a Well appointed *Army* into *England*. And then their *Party* here, who had all the while *Lull'd* the KING *Asleep*, against any *Apprehension* of them, *Voted* them their *Good Brethren*, and *Join'd* with them against His Majesty, and brought him to *Ruin*.

And it is to be *Noted*, That this was after His Majesty had *Pull'd* down *Episcopacy*, and *Establish'd* *Presbytery* in Scotland, to please the *Faction* there; of which he sorely *Repented*, as a most *Grievous Sin* in him, and the *Cause* of all his after *Miseries*. And laid down his *Life*, rather than *Consent* to do the like in *England*, which was their *MODEST Request*!

And the first Tumults in Scotland, of *Women* only at the *Beginning*, and *Pretending* nothing against the *King*, were not near so *formidable*, as the *Appearance* of *Seven Hundred MEN* in *Arms*, fixing up *Declarations* at *Noon-Day* in *Royal-Boroughs*, *Renouncing* *Anne*, *Princess* of *Denmark*, in *Words* at *Length*, from being their *Queen*, because she had *Promis'd* to *Maintain* *Episcopacy* in *England*; which having been once a *Covenanted People*, they *Declar'd* themselves *Oblig'd* by their *Covenant*, to bring them to *That* again. This *Declaration*, with the *Covenant* *Renew'd* by both their *Provincial Synods*, in this

*See Association. *Reign*, have been *Printed* here.

And this *Covenant*, at first but *Voluntary*, like their first *Solemn League*, is now, as *That* was, made *Compulsory*, and *Forc'd* upon their *Ministers*, on *Pain* of *Deprivation*. Yet no *Danger* appears from all this!

Therefore they go on. And have *Enter'd* into *SECRET Combinations* among Themselves, to *Raise* *Funds* for *Arming* the *Well-Affected*, but the *whole Design* to be *Discover'd* at first only to the *Very well Affected*; to *Name* *Captains* and *Officers*, and have a *Standing Force*, with *Places* of *General Rendezvous* appointed, not to be *Known* but to the *Well Affected*. And on the first *Report* or *Word* given to *Seize* whomever they *Judge* *ill-affected*, &c.

Now, as I said before, That the *Beginnings* in Scotland are a *sure Indication* of what the *Faction* *Design* to be *Done* in *England*. No sooner did the *News* of the *SCOTS Arming* arrive in *London*, but the *Faction* here immediately *Open'd* in *Justification* of it, and *Propos'd* the same to be *Done* in *England*, as I have shew'd N. 23. and Quoted thy *Observer* of last Dec. 20. N. 71. Where thou wou'd'st have the *Native Strength*, as thou call'st it, and the *Poss'e* of the *People* to be *Arm'd*. And particularly the *Keel-Bullies* at *New-Castle*, as is before Quoted, and the *End* shew'd Even the same for which thou hast so often before warn'd thy *Country-man* to *Furbish* up his *MARSTON MOOR* and *EDGE-HILL Swords* and *Muskets*, to let him know, That it was to *Fight* again in the same *CAUSE*! This was the *End* of *The Shortest way* with the *Dissenters*, to *Arm* them All in their own *Defence*. And all *YOUR Pamphlets*, since this *Reign* have been *Crying* to *Arms*, and *Raising* *Terrible APPREHENSIONS* of *Persecution*, &c. from the *High Church*. Under which *Name*, *YOU* have, *One* and *All*, and Thou *Master Observer*,

over and over again, *Openly* and *Above* vow'd *Utter Destruction* to the *Church* of *England* and to the *Monarchy* too.

Obf. I confess *WE* are against *HEREDITARY Monarchy*, as thou didst *Rebears* plain enough Num. 25. As being an *Infraction* upon the *Principle* of *Election* in the *People*. And therefore are very *Fond* of the *HEREDITARY Entail* made upon the *House* of *Hanover*.

Country-m. For which, as I then told thee, *Thy* and thy *Brother*, the *Protestant Jesuite* deserve to be *Hang'd*, as is *Provided* in that *Act*. And this lets Us see an *Inch* further into the *Mill-stone*, why the *Succession* did not *Pass* in *Scotland* last *Session*, tho' most *EARNESTLY* *Recommended* by the *Queen*.

Obf. Hast Thou forgot what thou toldst me in thy *Rebearsal*, N. 11. How *WE* *Oppos'd* the *Queen's* own *Accession*. And why that? But because it was *Hereditary*. This *Hereditary* still puts Us further off our *Beloved Puff*, a *Common-Wealth*. We wou'd *Change KINGS* every Day, till we got *One* that we cou'd *Change* for *Good* and all. Therefore *WE* have been very *Modest* in *Blaming* the *Scots* for not *Settling* the *Succession* upon the *House* of *Hanover*. *WE* *Excuse* them in it, only when we wou'd throw the *Odium* upon the *Papists* and *Jacobites*. As it is *Handsomely* *Worded* in the *Overtures*, which thou call'dst *Combination*, of *OUR Friends* in *Scotland*, *Set down* in thy *Last*.

Country-m. If such *Overtures* had *Appear'd* against those *Accus'd* here of the late *Scots-plot*, I doubt Others besides me wou'd have call'd it a *Combination*! But the *Next Session* of the *Scots Parliament* may perhaps tell us some more *News* of these *Matters*, and where the *True Plot* lies.

Obf. They! What can they do? Did they take any *Notice* of the *New Associations* or *Covenants* of the *Presbyterian Synods*, or of the *Sanguinary Declaration* before-mention'd? And is it more *Treason* to *Enter* into *Combinations* without the *Royal Authority*, and to *Provide Arms* *PRIVATELY*, than to *Appear PUBLICLY* in *Arms*, and to *Renounce* the *Queen* by *Name*? Besides, *WE* *Intend* to have a more *Perfect Ministry* in *Scotland* before their next *Session*. They at first *Insist'd* (as *WE* *Here*) to have a *Share* in the *Ministry*. And then gave for *Excuse* of the *Succession* not *passing* last *Session*. That they had a *MOTLY Ministry*. And they cou'd not *Answer* for *Business*, if the *Whole* was not put into *Their Hands*. And *WE* *Here* will *Help THEM* to it; That *THEY* may *Help US* to it next *Time*. Our *Scots Friends* *Help't* *US* against *Strafford* and *Laud*, when *WE* had *Help't THEM* into the full *Power* in *Scotland*.

Set thy *Heart* at *Rest*. *WE* know *THEM*. And *THEY* know *US*. And *WE* *Move* not without *EACH OTHER*.

THEY know, That *WE* are not for *Succession*. But for *Old Puff*. And of all things *Desire* to keep off *Entails* and *Hereditary*, which is *OUR* *Aversion*.

I'll tell thee no more this *Bout*. It is *Decreed*—— *WE* will set the *Three Nations* in a *Flame*, but *WE* will do our *Business*, and set up our *Common wealth* once more.

Country-m. And you will *Burn* them to *Death*, if you do. There is no way to *Prevent* it, or to *save* *US* from *YOUR Influence* in *Scotland*, but to *Curb* the *Faction HERE*, which is the *Spring*, and the *Director*. The *Root* is in *England*, tho' it *Buds* forth first generally in *Scotland*.